

## Increased fire risk for Rye Park region due to approval of Mod1 SSD 6693

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I wish to submit an objection against Mod 1 SSD 6693 and future construction by TILT Renewables of Rye Park wind farm for the following reason, increased uncontrolled fire ignition within the footprint of Rye Park wind farm:

Fires can and have started within the footprint of wind farms within NSW and interstate. This fire can start for a variety of reasons both natural and human error.

### **The NSW Southern Tablelands and South West Slopes are known for their lightning ignited fires.**

1. Lightning strikes- whilst as an experienced licenced electrician with experience in many fields of the electrical **industry including high voltage**, I understand that these devices will be earthed to an underground earth mat, but given the extra height applied for now of a 200-meter blade tip at the Rye Park Wind Farm the incidence of lightning strike is grossly exaggerated. Also given that these devices are earthed does not preclude lightning utilising the support tube of the tower to bypass the earthing of the tower resulting in the lightning striking the ground and travelling through the soil below thus igniting the surrounding area with a sheet of excessively high voltage- for instance lightning strikes splintering mature trees which are obviously not of the magnitude of the proposed Rye Park Wind Towers at 200M, in so doing igniting their roots underground. Humans and animals such as livestock have been both injured and killed by lightning strikes, it does happen.
2. In storms combining lightning with massive down pours experienced at times across the project's expanded footprint as applied for under Mod 1 SSD 6693 TILT Renewables Rye Park wind farm, will inevitably see lightning travel/track down the wet extended blade arrangement applied for and flash over to ground?
3. Disintegrated bearings will start fires?

- 17th January 2017 Currandooley Fire (Capital Wind Farm) **supposedly** started by an electrocuted crow falling -whilst technically not a turbine induced fire that incident has been proven to have started a fire within the “footprint” of Capital Wind Farm, that fire destroyed more than 4000 Ha livestock, buildings, vehicles and machinery.
- Likewise the Taralga wind farm fire 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018 initiated within the footprint of the Taralga very quickly escaped into steep heavily timbered valleys to become uncontrollable due to the initial smoke haze that afternoon the piolets of aerial firefighting aircraft deployed to that fire refused to fly due to lack of visibility caused by the smoke thus making it very dangerous for those piolets to operate, in so doing losing control of the initial outbreak.

These piolets could not operate within the footprint of the Taralga wind farm as the blades of those wind towers became “Invisible” in the smoke-this incidence alone highlights how a fire instigated within the footprint of a wind farm quickly becomes uncontrollable.

I attended that fire as part of a Rural Fire Service Strike Team from Yass, spending the night of 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 relieving already stretched local crews for the night, whilst travelling to Taralga the afternoon 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018 our truck’s team heard the call by the piolets that refused their services due to the danger of wind tower blade collisions.

4. Internally ignited fires in the oil filled Narelle/generator housing, caused by electrical fault and or lightning strikes if the fire suppression system installed does not control the fire **then its uncontrollable other than by letting it burn its self out?**
5. Will TILT Renewables or the subsequent Rye Park Wind Farm owners addressed the training of city based of international Wind Farm maintenance workers as they claim they will to
  - a. Understand the full implications of the Rural Fire Services meaning for Total Fire Ban Days? No hot works whatso ever including welding, grinding and similar activities?
  - b. Understand the implication of the Fire danger warnings?

Who will be responsible for these fires given that there **inevitably** will be fires started within the footprint of this Wind Farm should it go ahead east of Rye Park?

Given there’s now sufficient evidence to show that both fixed winged and or rotor blade firefighting aircraft effectiveness will be severely hindered by the proximity to nearby Wind Farms. Decreasing their ability to suppress grass and or bushland fires early.

Given that, recently in consulting with a trained city based fire brigade colleague who informs me that it’s now standard practice for emergency personnel such as himself to be required to be 1 ½ times the height of a tall building fire distanced away from the fire

source then there is no way to address the fire that starts in the foot print of a wind farm until it has spread to a very large area. Creating an exceptionally large footprint of burnt uncontrollable country, before effective fire suppression can commence?

So, in summing up can the DPIE approve Mod 1 SSD 6693 TILT Renewables Rye Park wind farm when the increased fire risk must be considered?

Regards

John McGrath